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RECENT LITERATURE.

INDIANA. GEOLOGY AND NATURAL HISTORY.¹—The report of John Collett, State geologist, forms a tolerably bulky volume, about equally divided between geology and palæontology. The geological portion is occupied with detailed accounts of the geology of Bartholomew, Delaware, Fountain and Shelby counties, and also contains the results of some carefully conducted experiments upon the transverse strength and elasticity of building stones, by T. H. Johnson. The specimens experimented upon were from the oolitic limestone, which forms a homogeneous bed forty feet in thickness, without clay partings, and is capable of furnishing the largest blocks that can be handled.

The palæontological portion contains descriptions of the species of fossils found in the Niagara group at Waldon, Indiana, by Professor J. Hall. The descriptions are accompanied by thirty-six plates of sponges, corals, crinoids, mollusks and trilobites, found in the above locality since its discovery in 1860, and descriptions of most of which have previously been published by Professor Hall in vol. iv of the Transaction of the Albany Institute, and in the report of the New York State Museum for 1876.

This is followed by a report upon the fossils of the Indiana rocks, by Dr. C. A. White, illustrated by nineteen plates, and including descriptions of three new species, *Pabella levettei*, *Bellerophon gibsoni* and *Agaricocrinus springeri*.

Mr. Collett has commenced this work energetically, and brought together results which will cause his next report to be looked for with great interest.

SMITH'S DEEP-SEA CRUSTACEA OF THE EAST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES.—This important report, published in the Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, describes the decapod Crustacea taken mostly at great depths off the eastern coast from Martha's Vineyard to the West Indies. The descriptions are elaborate and detailed and the illustrations drawn with great care. The author gives no general results of his studies. A number of new genera and species are described.

WHITMAN ON THE DICYEMIDS.²—The Dicyemids are very peculiar organisms which inhabit the renal organs of cuttle-fish. Köl liker first discovered that these parasites produce two kinds of embryos, and for this reason gave them the name of Dicyema. Heretofore the most elaborate account of their embryology and classification has been that of Professor E. Van Beneden, in which,

¹ Indiana. Department of Geology and Natural History, Eleventh Annual Report. John Collett, State Geologist. 1881. Indianapolis, 1882.

² *A Contribution to the Embryology, Life History and Classification of the Dicyemids.* By C. O. WHITMAN. Reprint from the Mittheilungen aus Zoologischen Station zu Napels. IV. Band. I Heft. Leipzig. W. Engelmann, 1882. 8vo, p. 89. 5 plates.

however, he established for these strange beings a distinct sub-kingdom, the Mesozoa. It has been the general opinion, however, that they are degraded Platyelminth worms.

After an elaborate study of different species of this group, Professor Whitman considers their reproduction, embracing the phenomena of transition from the rhombogenic to the nematogenic condition, a comparison of the Dicyemidæ with the Orthonectidæ, and a general survey of their evolutionary cycle, so far as at present known. He then examines the development of the vermiform embryo, and the origin of the germ-cells, with remarks on endogenous cell-formation. Finally he discusses the systematic affinities of the Dicyemids. Whitman sees "no reasons for doubting the general opinion that they are Platyhelminths degraded by parasitism. Whether they and their allies, the Orthonectidæ, have descended from ancestors represented now by such forms as *Dinophilus* (Metschnikoff), or from the Trematoda (Leuckart), is a question which further investigations must decide," also remarking that "when we find an animal in the form of a simple sack, filled with reproductive elements, secured by position against enemies, supplied with food in abundance and combining parasitism with immobility, we have strong reasons for believing that the simplicity of its structure is more or less the result of the luxurious conditions of life which it enjoys, even if its development furnishes no positive evidence of degeneration."

VERRILL'S CATALOGUE OF NEW ENGLAND MARINE MOLLUSKS.¹—This is intended to include all the mollusca now known to inhabit the New England region that are not included in Binney's edition of Gould's *Invertebrata* of Massachusetts, published in 1870. The illustrations are noteworthy, not only from the beauty and evident accuracy of the drawings which have been made by Mr. Emerton, but from the perfection and cheapness of cost of the photo-lithographic work.

BARRANDE'S SILURIAN ACEPHALOUS MOLLUSKS.²—In a thick octavo volume with ten plates, M. Barrande has given the results of his exhaustive studies of the genera of Silurian *Acephala* of Bohemia, of the vertical distribution of the genera and species, their variations and the specific connections established between the Bohemian forms and those of other countries.

BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY. —With the purchase of the Hall collection of New York fossils, and the accumulation or deposit of other material, and the accession of working scientists to its force, the American Museum

¹*Catalogue of Marine Mollusca added to the Fauna of New England during the past ten years.* By A. E. VERRILL. (From the Transactions of the Connecticut Academy, Vol. v. Part 2.) New Haven, April to July, 1882. 8vo, 5 plates.

²*Acephales. Etudes locales et comparatives. Extraits du système Silurien du Centre de la Bohême.* Vol. VI. Acéphalés. Par JOACHIM BARRANDE. Prague et Paris, 1881. 8vo, p. 536.